**Inclusion of drugs under price control**

2264. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to include drugs meant for the treatment of heart diseases like Dilliazen, Captopril, etc. under price control and to bring drugs like Nifedipine, which is the most frequently used drug, outside the purview of price control;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the criteria for bringing drugs of insignificant consumption like Norgestrel, Northisterone, Lynestrenal, nandrolone, etc., under price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) The entire Drug Policy-with Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987 is still under review of the Government and as such, it would be pre-mature to disclose any details at this stage.

2265. [*Transferred to the 20th March, 1992*].

**Life Saving Drug for Thalassaemia Treatment**

2266. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of life saving drug DESFERAL for Thalassaemia treatment has been increased abnormally recently and the treatment has become unaffordable for the persons suffering from this disease;

(b) if so, the details of the increase in the prices of this medicine during the last one year and reasons therefor;

(c) whether a delegation of National Thalassaemia Welfare Society had met the Minister to represent their problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): ,a) and (b) 'Desferal' is a formulation imported in finished form and is outside price control. M|s. Hindustan Ciba-Geigy were marketing this injection at a price lower than the import cost till August, 1991, thereby incurring loss on the sale of this formulation. The subsequent increase in price was effected by the company on account of exchange rate adjustment and to cut losses on the sale of this formulation. However, keeping in view the overall interest of Thalassaemia patients in the country, Government intervened and prevailed upon the company to reduce the price from Rs. 410|- to Rs. 290|- for a pack of 5 vials of 'Desferal' injection w.e.f. 1st week of March, 1992.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Enhancing the Prices of Drugs under GATT Package**

2267. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drug prices have been rising steeply during the last six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the GATT package is likely to enhance the prices of drugs by 5 to 10 times more and also to reduce the health cover from 30 per cent of the population to less than 10 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard the interest of common man particularly in view of the U.N. obective of health for all by 2000 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) In a situation of rising costs of inputs, some amount of price increase is unavoidable.

(b) and (c) The Dunkel proposals are still in the process of being examined and Governent stand in respect of these proposals has not yet been finalised.

2268. [*Transferred to the 20th March, 1992*].

2269. [*Transferred to the 20th March, 1992*].

**Financial crisis in single super phosphate units**

2270. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that single super phosphate (SSP) units in the country are reeling under financial crisis and it is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial measures are proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Single Superphosphate manufacturing units have indicated the following main problems faced by them:

(i) Liquidity problems caused by inadequate/delayed payment of subsidy;

(ii) Imposition of ceiling on subsidy; and

(iii) Delay in compensating them for steep escalation in the cost of various inputs.

(c) Every effort is being made to expedite payment of their subsidy bills upto February, 1992. The ceiling on subsidy has also since been revised upwards by the Government taking into account escalation in the cost of imported inputs.

**Letters of MPs and Ex-MPs on Drug Issues**

2271. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 3098 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1991 and state:

(a) the number of letters received by Government from each Member of Parliament and Ex-Member of Parliament after 1st January, 1991 on drug matters;

(b) what are the main issues raised in each of these letters and why these letters have neither been acknowledged nor acted upon so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that this has been done at the instance of the Development Commissioner (PI) who is working against the interest of common man;

(d) by when these letters would be disposed off;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government have flouted the guidelines for disposing of such communications; and

(f) what are the guidelines in this regard and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (f) A number of letters have been received from members of parliament/ex-Members of Parliament during the period in question on drug issues. They related to issues like bulk drug & formulation prices, DPEA, Custom/Excise duties, loan licencing system, review of drug policy etc. As per the guidelines on dealing with references from M.P.s, they are being dealt with expeditiously except in those cases where exhaustive information is requqired to be collected and compiled.